Vacation taken by Army Official

1389. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Northern Army Commander proceeded on five days vacation to Pune on May 14, nearly two weeks after the first Indian army patrol under his direct command had been ambushed and slaughtered on Kargil sector along the Line of Control; and

(b) if so, what was the special purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inclusion of Regional Mothertongues in the Eighth Schedule

†1390. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan for constituting a High Powered Committee for considering the proposals for placing the various regional mothertongues in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) the details of the criterion fixed at present for placing the regional mothertongues in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to constitute a High Powered Body for evolving criteria for inclusion of any or more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.